



The purpose of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD, Inc. is “to increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, and related subjects.”

### REGULAR MEETINGS

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday, October 14, 2013**, in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. A short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm, but the room is available starting at 7:30 pm. Our speaker for the October meeting will be Mr. William R. (Bobby) Mann, who will discuss Ivory and its attributes. He will be bringing in many specimens of authentic ivory and its look-a-likes, will show key identification information and will be passing around all of the items for the group to examine. It will be an excellent night of hands-on learning!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting will be held **Monday, October 21, 2013**, at the home of Andy Muir. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but kindly let Andy know if you plan to attend at [amuir21@comcast.net](mailto:amuir21@comcast.net) or 301-990-1370.

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: HELLO FELLOW ROCKHOUNDERS

I am writing this message on my wedding anniversary to my lovely wife, Patricia. You might ask, “Yo! Mighty Prez! Why are you writing to us, instead of cooking a fine dinner for Patricia?” Because my wife is at Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. She and her sister are volunteers, picking lint off formations! How’s that for an anniversary present? But do I moan, gnash my teeth and otherwise behave like a spoiled adult? You bet I do! I’m writing this, aren’t I?

But wait; shouldn’t I be better than this? Why am I just growing old instead of growing up? Because, that’s life! I should have stayed in Wonderland, if I didn’t want to grow old and I never did want to grow up.

What is the solution to this dilemma and how in the heck does it relate to rocks? The solution is simply mathematics! Yes, dear friends, mathematics, the art of manipulating the facts, so that said facts appear different than when we first encountered them. Allow me to illustrate.

Sometimes, during a conversation someone may ask, “How long you have been married?” I answer, “29 years or 14.5 happy years.” When they look at me funny – which happens a lot for some reason – I explain that 50% happiness is not a bad return on a marriage. After all a 50% return in the stock market would make you a BaGillionaire. A rock trip that resulted in your finding 50% great stuff is unheard of – see, it relates to rocks. We all settle for way less than 50% great rocks when we go collecting. We slog through the heat, dust, mud, bugs, poison ivy and snakes – all for a few pretty rocks to add to our collection. We don’t fret that all of our rocks weren’t great, or that only 50% or 25% of our rocks were great. We do the best we can and accept our “free rocks” as the just fruits of our labor. Should we not go on a collecting trip our percent of great rocks collected is zero and we are OK with that, because we put no effort into the trip and therefore deserve zero return.

At this point, you may ask, “Prez, where are you going with this?” I wish I knew – this is one of the drawbacks of stream of conscious writing.

Oh wait! All this means you should get your collective butts in the field and get collecting. The weather is perfect, Jonathan has scheduled some great trips, you are not going to find the Hope Diamond, so you are not going to get a 100%

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Deadline for the November issue of *The Rockhounder* is October 25, 2013.

return on your investment, but that's OK. You'll be outside in pursuit of Rockous Prettycous, with friends of like mind. So get out there and get collecting!

Getting back to my anniversary dinner for one, I ordered a dozen steamed crabs and they are delicious! Life is good, if you make it good!

*Andy B, Prez*

## SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

The September 13, 2013, meeting was called to order by President Andy Celmer at 7:44 pm, with approximately 89 people attending. It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013, regular meeting and of the May 20, 2013, BOD meeting.

**FRA:** Holly McNeil did her last presentation badges as she handed the reins of the FRA program to Mark Dahlman. Several badges were presented. Holly was applauded for her efforts to initiate, build up, and maintain the FRA program.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan Harris discussed several upcoming field trips, including a new site in PA. (See field trip section and watch your email.)

**Memberships:** It was M/S/P to accept the membership applications of returning members Michael Rodowski & Katherine Keans, Dar, Kassia and Rozella Rodowski; and new members Alexander & Joanne Flavin; Lyle Peterson; and Katie Rapp and Peter and Scott Korenko.

**EFML Liaison:** Wendell Mohr mentioned awards won by club members Jonathan Harris, Andy Celmer, Pat Cronin, Conrad Smith, and Maureen Campeau for their contributions to *The Rockhouser*. He noted that members Jeff Nagy and Fred Parker had an article on the Maryland Mine published in the journal *Rocks and Minerals*. Jim Kostka mentioned upcoming shows.

**Presentation:** Vice president Chris Luzier introduced the speaker for the evening, Dave Tiktinsky. Dave discussed his recent *Namibia Mineral Safari*. His trip to Africa combined wildlife viewing with mineral specimen viewing in the Erongo area and in the area of Tsumeb. Guided tours catering to those with interests in rocks and minerals are now available. This tour was with a group from Knoxville, TN. Dave discussed the areas he visited where he talked to miners and was offered minerals to buy. It was not a trip where self-collecting was possible. Visiting Tsumeb was more of historical interest. Although not a museum, it appeared much as it had when it was shut down. Minerals from the mine aren't found locally. They are normally only found for sale after coming from old collections. In the final portion of the presentation we also heard about and saw pictures of the wildlife. Dave brought some of the samples he had purchased for the audience to see. Thanks, Dave.

**Treasurer:** Holly McNeil gave her first treasurers report since assuming the position from Andy Muir. Andy has taken over the Upstairs Show Chair position. Holly expressed thanks to Andy and noted that it was an easy job transition thanks to his efforts. The Senior Center contract is signed and a room is reserved for the upcoming auction. The audit report of the club's finances is complete.



*FRA members receiving their badges  
Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh*



*Dave Tiktinsky and his collection from Namibia  
Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh*

**President:** Andy Celmer noted that the society will have some open positions for the upcoming election and to help with the show. See any present board member to inquire about serving the club.

**Give-aways:** Andy Muir brought minerals from Medford, Manassas, and other sites to give away. Jonathan Harris also brought minerals to give away.

**Door Prizes:** Rod Towers administered the junior's door prize. Joel Rosen administered the drawings for the door prize and show table prize.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM. Jeff Cessna, Secretary.

*Jeff Cessna, Secretary*

## PRIZE WINNERS!

### Junior Table:

- Tourmaline in Quartz, Northern VA, Pyrite, Hunan Province, China – Dar Radowski
- Tourmaline in Quartz, Northern VA, Pyrite, Hunan Province, China – Claire DeSalvo

### Show Table:

Pyrite, Quiruvilca, Peru – Jim Kostka

### General:

- Almandine, Barton Mine, Gore Mountain, Warren Co, NY – Earl Smith
- Arrowhead Pendant donated by Anna Marcus – David Tiktinsky

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

President Andy Celmer called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

**Board members present:** Andy Celmer, Chris Luzier, Jonathan Harris, Kristin Lolmaugh, Holly McNeil, Wendell Mohr, and Joel Rosen.

**Treasurer's Report:** Holly McNeil reported on the status of the club's finances and gave a brief overview of the new monthly financial reports. Holly then proposed an amendment to the by-laws limiting the Treasurer's tenure to two consecutive years, consistent with the other executive officer positions. The motion to submit the amendment to the club membership was made, seconded; and passed by a vote of 6 to 1. The group collectively proposed a second amendment to allow for up to two show chairpersons to be on the board. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Both recommended amendments will be inserted in *The Rockhounder* for the membership to review before being voted on at the regular November meeting. Holly will send the 2012 audit report to Kristin for publication in *The Rockhounder*.

**Field Trip update:** Jonathan Harris updated the group on upcoming field trips and solicited suggestions for future outings. Jonathan asked for the board's opinion on the appropriate type and frequency of communication to send to the membership. The board recommended that notices of sales of equipment and materials be sent as members may have interest in them. Jonathan will make an effort to limit communications to one per week.

**President:** Andy proposed that the show and tell period at the regular meeting start earlier, at approximately 9:10 pm, even if the break must be shortened. He has drafted a revised show flyer and will send it to the board for review and provide a supply to Wendell for the Gem Cutter Guild show on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Property Manager:** Joel Rosen is now in possession of the keys and locks for the show cases.

**Vice President:** Chris Luzier informed the group of a potential speaker from Tennessee and requested the honorarium be increased to \$100. The board agreed.

**EFMLS Liaison:** Wendell Mohr asked if the executive officer nominations have been finalized. A potential candidate for the secretary had not yet been confirmed. [9/17 update: A candidate for secretary has been confirmed, all four positions now have candidates who will be nominated to the membership for election in November.] The group discussed preparations for the October 12<sup>th</sup> auction and related follow up assignments. Nominations for the Rockhound of the Year and Each One Teach One awards were finalized. Andy Celmer was tasked with obtaining both write ups.

**2014 Show:** There was discussion about the need for a Demonstration Chair for the show as well as more volunteers to spread the work load. As this will be the 50<sup>th</sup> show, it was suggested the club do something special to commemorate this anniversary such as offer customized t-shirts for the membership. Andy Celmer will circulate some options. Additional show discussion was tabled until the next board meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

*Jeff Cessna, Secretary*

## **BY-LAW AMENDMENT MOTIONS**

The following Amendment Motions are to be presented to the society for consideration and to be voted upon at the November meeting.

### **Amendment Motion 1**

#### **Article IV – Elections and Appointments**

Section 5. Eligibility:

**From:** “Except for the office of Treasurer, no officer shall be eligible to hold a particular office for more than two consecutive terms by general election”

**To:** “No member of the Society shall be eligible to hold a particular Executive Officer position for more than two consecutive terms. An individual who previously held an Executive Officer position for consecutive terms is eligible to serve in the same position after a hiatus of at least two years.”

### **Amendment Motion 2**

#### **Article III – Officer and Directors**

Section 2. Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Officers, the Immediate Past President, the Chairmen of the Standing Committees, the Editor of *The Rockhounder*, the Junior Advisor, the Society Property Manager and EFMLS Liaison.

Section 3. Committees:

**From:**

- a. The Standing Committees shall be Field Trips, Membership and Show.
- b. The Chairmen of the various committees shall be appointed by the President as soon as possible after the annual election.

**To:**

- c. The Standing Committees shall be Field Trips, Membership and Show.
- d. The Chairperson(s) of the various committees shall be appointed by the President as soon as possible after the annual election. Up to two show co-chairs may be on the Board of Directors.

## **2012 AUDIT REPORT: AUGUST 4, 2013**

### **To the Board of Directors of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, Inc:**

We have audited the accounting records of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County, MD, for the year ended December 31, 2012. While our review was limited to testing the transactions and balances and would not necessarily disclose all errors, we believe the cash balances of the society are accurately stated.

In the course of our work we identified areas where the Society’s accounting procedures and internal controls could be improved. The attached recommendations are for the Board’s consideration.

We wish to thank Treasurer Andy Muir for his assistance during our review.

(Signed)

Steven J. McNeil  
Certified Public Accountant  
(State of Virginia No. 4571)

(Signed)

Holly B McNeil, B.S.

## THE LURE AND LORE OF ROCKS: CELESTITE

BY KRISTIN LOLMAUGH

Celestite (also known as celestine) received its name from the Latin "caelestis" meaning celestial or heavenly, based on its occasional delicate blue color. The first celestite was discovered in 1791 near Frankstown, Pennsylvania, by the German mineralogist A.G. Werner, and is Pennsylvania's official state mineral. It is best to keep celestite out of the sun as it may fade with frequent exposure.

Some believe that celestite offers a gentle uplifting energy that will raise one's awareness. Celestite is said to be an angelic stone. It is used to foster and forge connections to the angel realm and even to angels themselves. Tradition has it that celestite has been given consciousness raising and guidance powers from the angels. Using celestite with sincere prayer or meditation one can channel angelic wisdom. From its synergistic energies of the crown and throat chakras, celestite brings balance to thought processes and communication. With celestite one can find the ability to organize pertinent information, discard the irrelevant, and communicate the results with ease. This can be a boon to anyone, but especially to writers and public speakers. Some think celestite brings a number of positive energies to the emotional realm, lending its essence to reduce and eliminate worry, fear and anxiety and bring hope. It is also an excellent tool for emotional protection as it decreases negativity and negative energy in one's emotional body and life.



*Celestite from Madagascar  
Photo by Kristin Lolmaugh*

### FIELD TRIPS

Jonathan Harris, in a recent field trip email, mentioned a new MSHA safety requirement for field trips. Participants must have two wheel chocks per vehicle to comply with Federal Regulations. They are available many places such as Northern Tool and possibly Lowe's, Home Depot or any store where trailers are sold, i.e., Wal-Mart in the camping section. They should be at least 1/4th the height of the tire. Most of them on the market are about 6" to 8" tall and are made of plastic or hard rubber. You could saw out a pair from a scrap 6" X 6" square wood post as well. Even if all quarries are not yet requiring them, it is still a good idea.

- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013:** Denver Quarry, aka Kurtz Quarry, Denver, PA. Meet at the quarry office, at 9am. Children under 10 are welcome with a parent present and signing the release form. The Southern MD and Northern VA clubs have been invited to join us. RSVP to [Jonathan Harris](mailto:Jonathan.Harris@denverquarry.com) by October 15. Mineral types: The quarry mines a limestone that is 480-520 million years old. The formation is rich in dolomite. The typical mineral finds are dolomite, calcite, fluorite, quartz crystals, pyrite, malachite, barite, and sphalerite.
- **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2013:** Vulcan's Manassas Quarry, meet at 7:00 am - out by 11 or when the quarry employees have to leave. The rock is diabase, with one level having a layer of hornfels. This quarry has produced prehnite, apophyllite, calcite, amethyst, other quartz, chalcopyrite, pyrite, epidote, and zeolites -- stilbite, chabazite, heulandite, stellerite, and others. Respond to Jonathan Harris at [jgharris7@gmail.com](mailto:jgharris7@gmail.com) by November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome to new and returning members:

- Rodowski Family – Michael, Katherine Keane, Dar, Kassia, and Rozella, 19401 Framingham Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1827, [radowski@gmail.com](mailto:radowski@gmail.com), 408-329-0139
- Flavin Family – Alexander and Joanne, 13724 Lockdale Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906-2117, [alex\\_flavin@yahoo.com](mailto:alex_flavin@yahoo.com), 240-595-2367
- Lyle Peterson, 2505 Wycliffe Road, Parkville, MD 21234-8235, [lepete2012@gmail.com](mailto:lepete2012@gmail.com), 410-882-4527
- Rapp Family – Katie, Peter and Scott Korenko, 12515 Carrington Hill Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2240, [wookyluvr2002@yahoo.com](mailto:wookyluvr2002@yahoo.com), 301-330-9370

## MINI MINERS Ages 6-9

Next Meeting Date: October 14, 2013

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Location: Card Room, Rockville Senior Center

Mini miners are learning about the solar systems.



Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh

## FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA (THE MOCKS) Ages 10-15

Next Meeting Date: October 14, 2013

Time: 7:45 - 9:00 pm

Location: Sunroom Cafeteria, Rockville Senior Center

### September 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting:



At our September meeting, Mr. Walter Goetz, the author of *Montgomery County Gold Fever*, spoke to us about gold and gold mining. Mr. Goetz told us not only about gold mining in Montgomery County, and properties of gold, but also shared tips on where to find gold, as well as additional sources of information about the yellow metal. He and his wife, Myrtle, brought examples of local gold and gold ore, equipment, and maps. Mr. and Mrs. Goetz even gave each FRA member a map of local gold mines.



Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh

Those of us who went on the Lake Anna field trip had an excellent day for gold panning and learning about the mine there in the park. Congratulations to Mr. Yee for being the first to strike gold!

### October 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

At our October meeting we will continue our study of gold. FRA members should come prepared to either present information or submit a paper about uses of gold (badge requirement 12.2), gold throughout history (badge requirement 12.3), or gold resources in our state or region (badge requirement 12.4).

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Mark Dahlman at [fra\\_advisor@glmsmc.com](mailto:fra_advisor@glmsmc.com) or 301-428-0455.

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

BY WENDELL C. MOHR



**The University of Texas's Natural Science Center's Non-vertebrate Paleontology Lab** in Austin, TX, at <https://www.utexas.edu/tmm/npl/> is an extensive site. The title name is a misnomer since the site covers not only Fossils, but also Meteorites, Building Stones, Rocks, Gems, and Minerals. I found it easiest to explore by clicking on the site map and delving into the subjects. Try poking around for yourself for information on a multitude of subjects.

*Cut ammonites showing chambers, credit R. Weller/Cochise*

**GEMROCKS: Ornamental & Curio Stones**, Compiled by Richard. V. Dietrich, Professor Emeritus at Central Michigan University, <http://stoneplus.cst.cmich.edu/Default.htm>, has Illustrations by Jeffrey Scovil, Dick Dietrich and others. Here is a many page treatise covering many stones with descriptions, other names, uses, noteworthy occurrences, remarks, simulants, and references. Be sure to click on Index for the complete listing. The pdf reference will keep you occupied as the days grow shorter approaching winter. Have fun.



*Chinese turquoise pendant, credit R.Weller/Cochise College*



**North Carolina Boy Finds Diamond at the Crater of Diamonds**, tells of a 12 year old's 5.16 carat diamond find at <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/north-carolina-boy-finds-diamond-state-park-article-1.1424461>. The diamond is currently 27th largest for the location, the State Park in Murfreesboro Arkansas. Valued at as much as \$15,000 after cutting, it is named "God's Glory Diamond." A 01:49 video is available. You can visit the park yourself and see if

you can find a stone to exceed the size of this one! See

<http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/>. It is best to avoid the HOT months at the location so this fall offers an opportunity for you.



*An Arkansas diamond crystal  
From State Park web site*

## SAFETY MATTERS: LOOSE ENDS

BY ELLERY BOROW, EFMLS SAFETY CHAIR FROM EFMLS NEWS, SEPTEMBER 2013

Loose ends were brought to my attention at this, recent past, EFMLS Board of Directors meeting in Hauppauge, New York. The loose end mentioned was my home-made, and lengthy, ID badge – one listing a portion of my EFMLS duties, rock and mineral clubs of which I am a member / officer / committee member / editor, my proud SCRIBE affiliation, and various other rock and mineral associations. The badge extended from my shirt pocket down to my belt line and was frankly a serious safety infraction!

The length of my ID badge was a serious infraction of my own guidelines because it could have been caught in a coffee grinder, or electric pencil sharpener, or elevator door, or even been singed by a hot display light! What was I thinking??? The badge was removed (although it did elicit many comments and much attention!).

This month's safety message is about loose ends. Loose ends may range from loose wristwatch bands, draping necklaces, finger rings, long sleeve shirt cuffs, overly long shoe laces, pant cuffs, neck-ties (worn during those formal lapidary sessions), wearing too loose a glove, rock and mineral identification loupes hanging around one's neck, un-tucked shirt tails and so on. Industrial environments well know the hazards and insurance liabilities of

loose ends and usually place strict limits with wearing such things as watches, rings, neckties, loose shirt cuffs and so on.

While on the dig or collecting site there are, no doubt, few neckties worn or elevator doors with which to contend but I have personally seen (and a few times experienced) such unexpected things as a hammer swing interrupted by loose jacket folds, boot laces caught among rocks and causing a trip, chisels becoming wound around too floppy a glove. What I have not seen but have heard of are things such as long and floppy shirt sleeves caught in lapidary equipment belt drives, rings ruined in pinch points of equipment, sleeves being burned by alcohol lamps, aprons caught by sharp table edges, watch bands interfering with dop stick motion and ruining a stone, and more.

The take away message here is to please be mindful of loose ends. Things often reach out and grab any loose end they are able to reach – and most often at the most inconvenient of times.

Fortunately for me, no serious injury was experienced while wearing my overly long, and very much loose end, badge. No coffee grinders grabbed it, no electric pencil sharpeners pointed it, no elevator doors absconded with it, and no hot display light ignited it. Luckily, only a bit of my safety pride took a hit.

Always remember that your safety matters.

### **INSPIRING FUTURE GEOLOGISTS**

GLMSMC members Linda and Conrad Smith's efforts in May 2013 helped scouts of Cub Scout Pack 759 earn the Geology Belt Loop, an item needed to complete a requirement in the Boy Scouts of America STEM NOVA Science Everywhere Award.



### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Unless you have recently paid, your GLMSMC membership has expired. Membership dues are due by September 1st.

Single membership is \$15 per year, Family membership (defined as up to 2 adults and children younger than 18 years of age) is \$20 per year. There is a \$5.00 surcharge for late renewals.

We pay EFMLS/AFMS dues and more than \$3.00 for insurance for each member older than 10 years of age. So when you are renewing your membership, list only those interested in taking part in Society activities.

Please send dues (check made out to GLMSMC) to Membership Chairman, Doug Baum, 11205 Golden Meadow Court, Germantown MD 20876-1740.

As you renew your membership, you might also want to see about ordering that name badge you keep forgetting to order. Doug can provide you with the form.



*Members paying their dues. Photo by Kristin Lolmaugh*



## SHOW TABLE: September 2013

Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings. For a change of pace, I'm showing some of the specimens.

Exhibitor	Specimen (s)*	Locality
Jeff Cessna	Fluorite, Calcite, FL Smithsonite	Denton Mine, Cave in Rock, IL San Antonio Mine, Chihuahua, Mexico
Andy Celmer	Fossil	Aurora, NC
Earl Smith	Hematite	Morocco
Gary Leaman	Chalcedony Ammonite	Brazil Madagascar
Diane Leaman	Red Aventurine	Brazil
Barb Burr	Blue Chalcedony, Barite Crystal	Jefferson City, TN
Kristin Lolmaugh	Druzy Quartz*	New Mexico
Frances Becker	Grey Fern Fossil	East Tennessee
Gerald Elgert	Dinosaur bone*	College Park, MD
Jim Kostka	Lapis Serpentine	Afghanistan Globe Mine, AZ
Daniel Glenn	Fluorescent Spheres	Sterling Hill Mine, NJ
Rod Towers	Pyrite Amber	Flea Market Flea Market
Lyle Peterson	Cucullaea	Henson Creek, Pr Georges County, MD
Mary Ann Beall	Thunderegg*	Oregon
Ron Bridge	Pyrite & Diopside	Churchville Quarry, MD
Andy Muir	Calcite Aragonite	China China
Jonathan Harris	Epidote on Quartz* Apatite (fl yellow, white)*	Lafarge Churchville Quarry, MD Ellicott City, MD
Wendell Mohr	Canadian Coins Tylosaurus Pembinensis and Bathygnathus Borealis	Canadian Mint
George Durland	Fluorite on quartz Rose Quartz	Okoruso Namibia Near Custer, Black Hills, ND
Chuck Mason	Jasper, quartz & agate nodules with polished faces*	WY, NE, MT, TX
Linda Smith	Solar system scale	Mini miner project
Conrad Smith	Beryl, albite, quartz*	Kensington Mica Mine, MD
Don Greaves	Silver lead sulfide	Pequea Mine, Lancaster, PA
Claire DeSalvo	Kakortakite Manganocalcite	Greenland China
Joel Rosen	Prehnite	Patterson, NJ

\* indicates self-collected or self-made



Photos by Kristin Lolmaugh



## FAREWELL TO A FRIEND! DALE FISHER



Dr. Dale J. Fisher passed away on June 17, 2013. His devoted wife, Ruth, and his beloved daughter, Shelley, hosted a “Celebration of Life” attended by many relatives and good friends. He was 88 years old when he died.

Dale received his baccalaureate degree (Chemistry, 1947) from the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. from Indiana University (Analytical Chemistry, 1951). He began his career in 1951, and became group leader of the Analytical Chemical Instrumentation Group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee. It was at Oak Ridge that Dale’s skills in instrumentation and problem solving developed and flourished.

In 1973, he joined the University of Florida at Gainesville faculty of graduate studies as a physicist. There, he split his duties between teaching and research, primarily in the area of nuclear medicine. Dale’s work also involved collaborative research with scientists at the Veterans Administration.

In 1976, Dale made his final move to Maryland to join the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where

he conducted research to develop highly technical analytical instrumentation to serve FDA needs. Dale was a life member of the American Chemical Society, and in 1969 he received an ACS National Award for innovations in chemical instrumentation. The University of Wisconsin also awarded him the 1981 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dale became interested in gems in the early 1950s while in graduate school. As an academic requirement, he gave a seminar on synthetic gems, a subject that he researched well. As a result, he developed a keen interest in that area. That interest lay dormant for some time until – following some good instruction on jewelry making and casting (added to his knowledge of stones) – he found a new path to pursue that aligned with his professional interests.

“I want to make pieces of jewelry that are one of a kind and free form, using my skills to marry metal and stone,” he once said. He accomplished that goal by producing wonderful and masterfully crafted jewelry. His combined skills in inorganic chemistry, mineralogy, gemology, lapidary, and casting techniques – coupled with his knowledge of instrumentation – gave him a huge advantage for his jewelry making.

Dale possessed a kaleidoscope of personality traits that certainly contributed to his successes. He was intelligent, studious, curious, resourceful, exuberant, dynamic, and unfailingly polite. His other notable hobbies were playing the violin (member of a student quartet), taking piano lessons, bicycling, photography and marksmanship. Dale led a very busy and interesting life. We will miss him!

*Adapted from The Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Washington, DC, The Dopstick, September 2013*

If you are planning a trip and want to know what clubs you might be able to visit, it would be worthwhile to visit the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website. Check out their newsletter archives at <http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 5, 2013 – 61<sup>st</sup> Semi-annual Autumn Mineralfest**, Pennsylvania Earth Sciences Association, Macungie Memorial Park (Poplar Street), PA
- **October 5-6, 2013 – The 46th Annual Gem & Mineral Show**, The Shenandoah Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Kate Collins Middle School, 1625 Ivy Street, Waynesboro, VA, Saturday: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday: 12:00 to 5:00 pm
- **October 12, 2013** – Save the date for the GLMSMC auction of last Paul Vance material and more at the Rockville Senior center – details later.
- **October 26, 2013 – Ultraviolation 2013: Fluorescent Minerals Only**, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA; for information, email [ultraviolation@yahoo.com](mailto:ultraviolation@yahoo.com)
- **Patuxent Lapidary Guild** is offering cabbing and silversmithing classes – visit [www.patuxentlapidary.org](http://www.patuxentlapidary.org).
- **November 9, 2013 – The 22nd Annual Richmond Gem & Mineral**, Society Rock Sale and Swap, Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (Setup available at 7:00 am), Ridge Baptist Church Meeting Hall, 1515 East Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229
- **November 23-24, 2013 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gem Mineral and Fossil Show**, Hub Ballroom, George Mason University Campus, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA – Parking Lot A, Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, [www.novamineralclub.org](http://www.novamineralclub.org).
- **November 29 – December 1, 2013 – 34th Annual Gem and Mineral Show**, Salem Civic Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd, Salem, VA 24153, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Admission \$4.50, good for all 3 days. Children under 16 admitted FREE!

## BENCH TIPS

BY BRAD SMITH

### Just Say No to Optivisors

During his annual vision-check, a jeweler friend of mine wondered why not have his reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So he asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.

The doctor checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that it was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far he holds a jewelry piece from his eye, to get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty, bulky optivisors! Anyone else tried this?

### Mandrels

Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire. Frequently we choose a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops.

But to get the right "look" in chain mail designs, you must have just the right size mandrel, and often they are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is from Harbor Freight. They have a set of 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, for less than ten bucks. It's called a Transfer Punch Set. The catalog number is #3577, and the price is \$ 9.95 Plus, look for the 20% off coupon on any one item in their advertising circular. That cuts your cost to around eight bucks. I've bought four of these over the last couple years. [www.harborfreight.com](http://www.harborfreight.com)



*More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book Bench Tips for Jewelry Making on Amazon*

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